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**SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1279**

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**State of Washington**

**60th Legislature**

**2007 Regular Session**

**By** House Committee on State Government & Tribal Affairs (originally sponsored by Representatives Skinner, Kessler, Lantz, Hasegawa, Dickerson, Haler, McIntire, Conway, Newhouse and Kenney)

READ FIRST TIME 01/30/07.

1 AN ACT Relating to the state poet laureate; adding new sections to  
2 chapter 43.46 RCW; creating a new section; and making an appropriation.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature wishes to recognize: (1)  
5 The value of poetry and the contribution Washington poets make to the  
6 culture of our state; (2) that poetry is a literary form respected and  
7 growing throughout all segments of Washington's population; (3) that  
8 awareness and appreciation of poetry encourages increased literacy and  
9 advanced communication skills; and (4) that Washington state has  
10 produced many excellent and nationally recognized poets.

11 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 43.46 RCW  
12 to read as follows:

13 (1) The Washington state arts commission shall establish and  
14 administer the poet laureate program. The poet laureate shall engage  
15 in activities to promote and encourage poetry within the state,  
16 including but not limited to readings, workshops, lectures, or  
17 presentations for Washington educational institutions and communities  
18 in geographically diverse areas over a two-year term.

1 (2) Selection of a poet laureate shall be made by a committee  
2 appointed and coordinated by the commission. The committee may include  
3 representatives of the Washington state library, the education  
4 community, the Washington commission for the humanities, publishing,  
5 and the community of Washington poets.

6 (3) The commission and the committee shall establish criteria to be  
7 used for the selection of a poet laureate. In addition to other  
8 criteria established, the poet laureate must be a published poet, a  
9 resident of Washington state, active in the poetry community, and  
10 willing and able to promote poetry in the state of Washington  
11 throughout the two-year term.

12 (4) The recommendation of the poet laureate selection committee  
13 shall be forwarded to the commission, which shall appoint the poet  
14 laureate with the approval of the governor.

15 (5) The poet laureate shall receive compensation at a level  
16 determined by the commission. Travel expenses shall be provided in  
17 accordance with RCW 43.03.050 and 43.03.060.

18 (6) The poet laureate may not serve more than two consecutive  
19 two-year terms.

20 (7) The commission shall fund the poet laureate program through  
21 gifts, grants, or endowments from public or private sources that are  
22 made from time to time, in trust or otherwise.

23 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 43.46 RCW  
24 to read as follows:

25 The poet laureate account is created in the custody of the state  
26 treasurer. All receipts from gifts, grants, or endowments from public  
27 or private sources must be deposited into the account. Expenditures  
28 from the account may only be used for the poet laureate program. Only  
29 the executive director of the commission or the executive director's  
30 designee may authorize expenditures from the account. The account is  
31 subject to allotment procedures under chapter 43.88 RCW, but an  
32 appropriation is not required for expenditures.

33 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** The sum of thirty thousand dollars, or as  
34 much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for the fiscal year

1 ending June 30, 2008, from the general fund--state and is provided  
2 solely for deposit in the poet laureate account.

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